

From: Myles J. Swift
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 1:45pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Dear DOJ,

I want to put in my two cents on the Microsoft case. We are a small software developer. Never has any company other than Microsoft provided so much help to an industry. When CD players were new and very expensive, Microsoft sold thousands of them to developers at a loss to start the CD market. When voice systems started to come in they did the same thing. They practically gave away what were \$500 to \$600 boards to get people started on voice programming.

Before Microsoft every computer manufacturer had a unique format. Floppy disks would only play in one brand of machine. Differing operating systems meant that we had to customize the program for each brand of hardware. Our software retailed for \$3,995 in 1982. A better product sells today for \$1,000. With the cost of living changes the price differential is at least 8 to 1. Microsoft enabled the average end user of our products to save \$7,000 on the price of a program compared to what it would cost without standards. This makes a case for how much Microsoft has helped consumers.

If Microsoft made computers and did the complete bundle I could see the merits of the case. Right now Sun, Apple and IBM produce and sell these items direct: operating systems, hardware, networking components and applications. Microsoft sells operating systems and applications. Microsoft products are less expensive after distributor and retailer markup than the products sold direct by the other companies.

If their products did not have a good price/performance ratio, they would not succeed. I can see some merits in the case for how they worked with large hardware manufacturers. I cannot see any case for the public having been harmed.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Myles J. Swift
Computer Assistance Inc.
Creswell, OR 97426
auto/truck repair management
software since 1977
voice 541-895-3347